

Representative Kay L. McIff proposes the following substitute bill:

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON COMMON CORE

STANDARDS

2012 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Aaron Osmond

House Sponsor: LaVar Christensen

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor urges the State Board of Education to reconsider the board's decision to adopt the Common Core standards.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

► urges the State Board of Education to reconsider, and update or adjust as may be necessary, the board's earlier decision to adopt the Common Core standards and, in reconsidering the decision, evaluate the cost, control, content, and quality of Utah's implementation of the Common Core standards.

Special Clauses:

None

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:

WHEREAS, high student performance is fundamentally linked to a public education system that has a strong system of accountability and transparency consistent with state standards;

WHEREAS, the responsibility for the upbringing and education of children lies with



26 parents, supported by local school boards, and the state government;

27 WHEREAS, Utah has an obligation to control Utah's core curriculum, and has the right
28 to modify its education curriculum without being dependent on, or subject to, an entity outside
29 our state;

30 WHEREAS, in 2009 and 2010, the state was offered the chance to compete for
31 education funding through the Race to the Top (RTTT) program created by the United States
32 Department of Education, but no funding was received;

33 WHEREAS, locally elected officials, school leaders, teachers, and parents should be
34 included in the discussion, evaluation, and preparation of the Common Core standards;

35 WHEREAS, some citizens and elected officials want an additional review of, and an
36 opportunity to comment on, the Common Core standards;

37 WHEREAS, no empirical evidence indicates that centralized education standards result
38 in higher student achievement;

39 WHEREAS, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) currently allows
40 comparisons of academic achievement to be made across states without the necessity of
41 imposing national standards or curricula;

42 WHEREAS, Utah retains the right and ability of local stakeholders to innovate and
43 continue to make improvement over time;

44 WHEREAS, Utah has recently adopted and funded a computer adaptive testing system
45 aligned with Utah's core standards, which includes implementation of standards and testing,
46 associated professional development, and curriculum restructuring;

47 WHEREAS, the Common Core standards should be reevaluated in light of the newly
48 adopted computer adaptive testing program;

49 WHEREAS, all entities, public and private, that receive taxpayer funds either directly
50 or in the form of a grant, stipend, or any other means are accountable to Utah taxpayers, and the
51 State Board of Education is required annually to post on the Utah Public Finance Website
52 created in Section 63A-3-402, any funds received or spent on development of Utah's core
53 curriculum as a result of the Common Core;

54 WHEREAS, there is no national or multi-state centralized decision making that governs
55 the Utah core standards;

56 WHEREAS, the United States Constitution, which recognizes Utah as a sovereign

57 republic, acknowledges that the federal government has no educational mandate or authority
58 and allows the states to direct their own education systems;

59 WHEREAS, Utah should neither relinquish nor cede control of our education system to
60 a consortium of other states or to the federal government;

61 WHEREAS, Utah was an early leader in objecting to the federal mandates of No Child
62 Left Behind (NCLB) and other federal attempts to interfere with states' rights to control their
63 own public education systems;

64 WHEREAS, Utah is free to fully research and consider all available research, data,
65 experience, principles, and proposals that may lead to continuing improvement and progress in
66 its public education system;

67 WHEREAS, the Governor, the Legislature, and the State Board of Education are
68 engaged in joint efforts to advance education reforms and innovation, which will be enhanced
69 by the required review and reconsideration;

70 WHEREAS, Utah is a governing member of the Smarter Balance Assessment
71 Consortium (SBAC) but has the right to withdraw from this consortium at any time, and the
72 right to complete control of its assessments and student achievement in Utah; and

73 WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has notified the United States Secretary of
74 Education, and the Secretary has confirmed that the federal government acknowledges that
75 Utah is free to maintain the state's independence from all actual, or potential directives or
76 mandates from the federal government in relation to Utah's public education system and the
77 Common Core:

78 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the
79 Governor concurring therein, urges the State Board of Education to reconsider, and update as
80 may be necessary, the board's earlier decision to adopt the Common Core standards and to
81 evaluate the same in light of the newly adopted computer adaptive testing, along with the cost,
82 control, content, and quality of Utah standards and assessments compared to the cost, control,
83 content, and quality of the Common Core standards and SBAC assessments, and the extent to
84 which the state has maintained the state's independence as the sole governing authority for the
85 state's public education system.

86 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor requests the State
87 Board of Education to provide an additional opportunity for citizens and public officials for

88 input and to make publicly available on the State Board of Education's website the results of its
89 evaluation comparing the cost, control, content, and quality of Utah standards and assessments
90 with the cost, control, content, and quality of the Common Core standards and SBAC
91 assessments.